

Gc
974.702
Sch57st
1755258

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

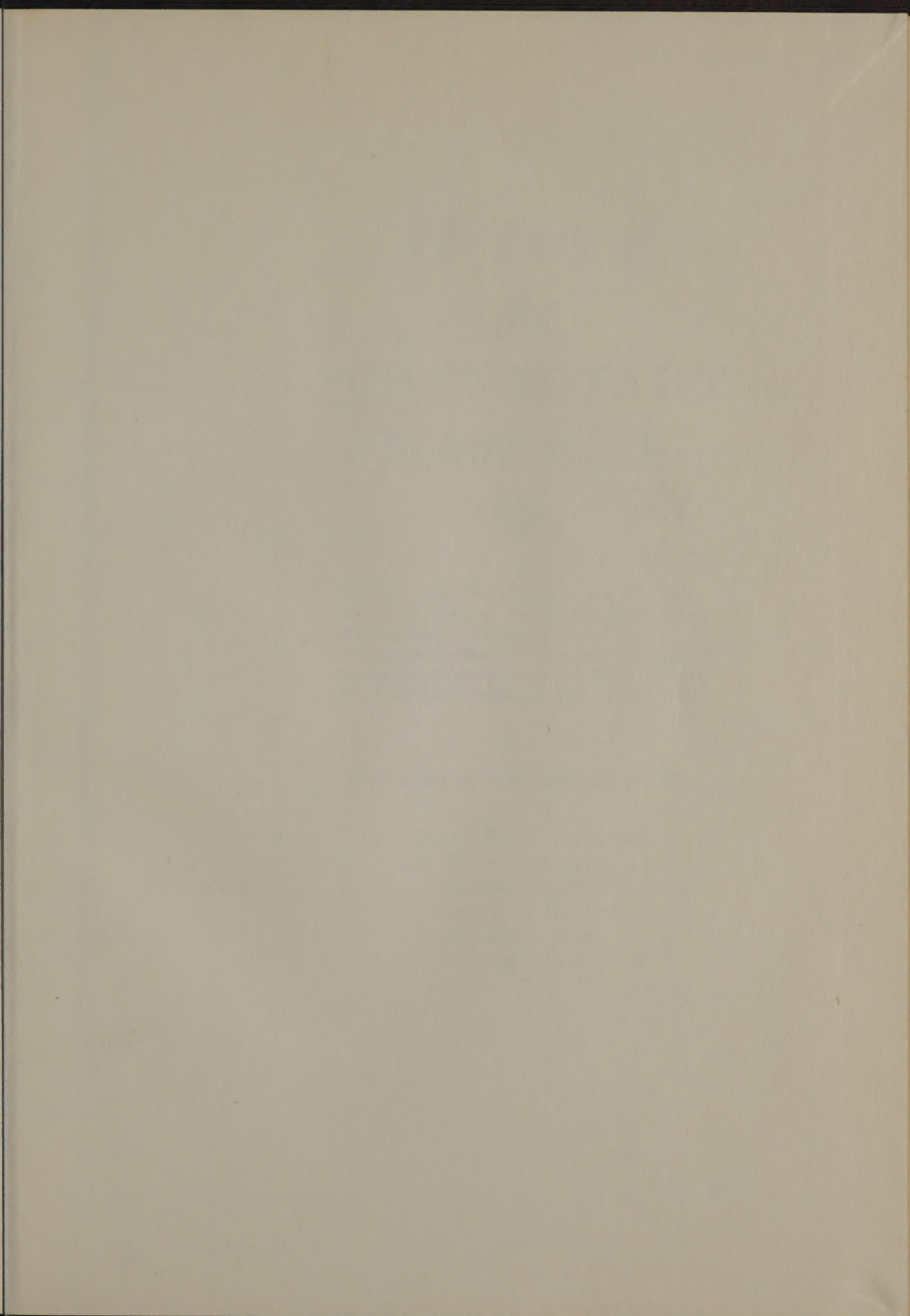
✓

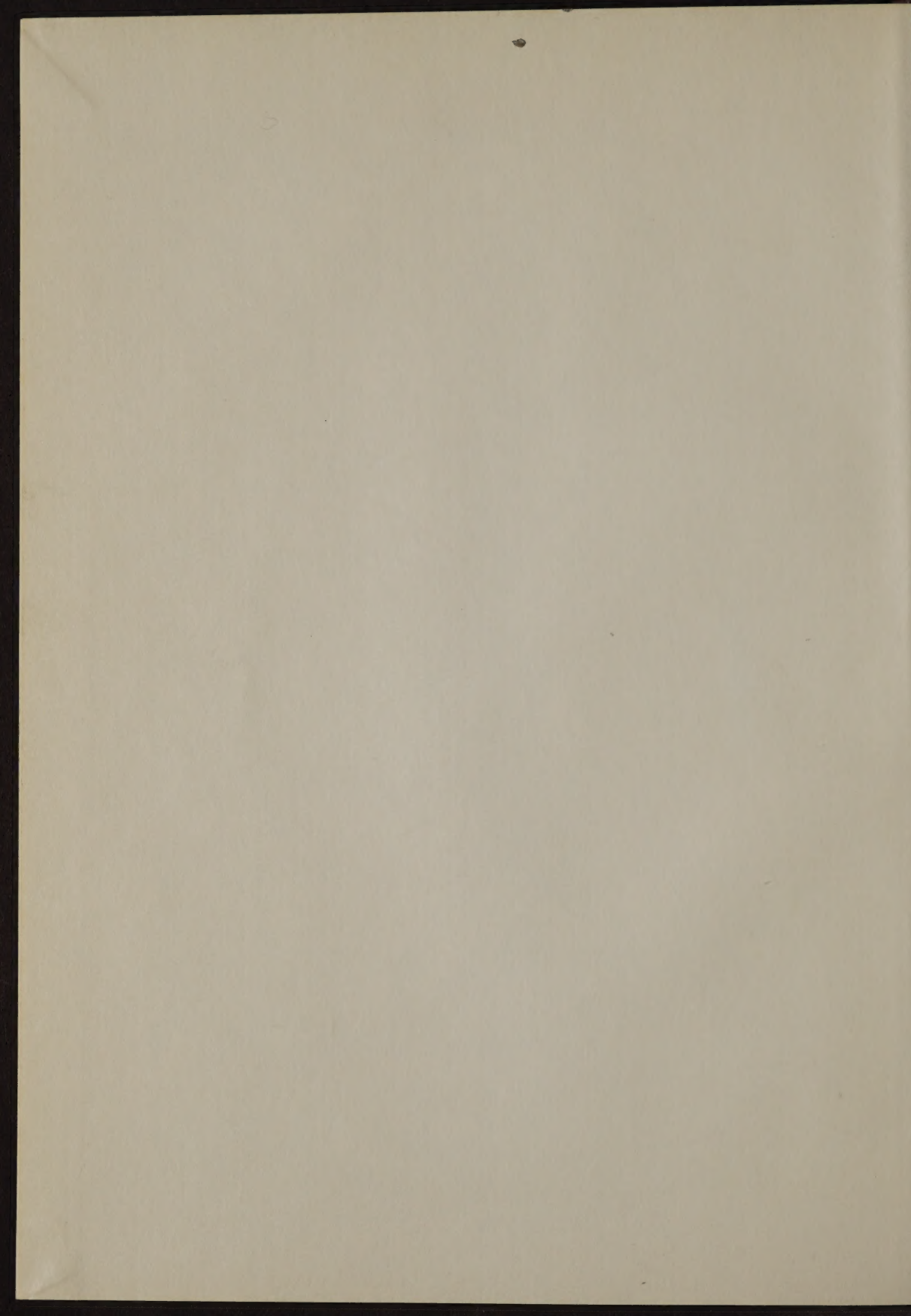
Go

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01150 3726





The Story of
the
SCHENECTADY
MASSACRE



Published under the auspices of the Schenectady
Chamber of Commerce and the Schenectady County
Historical Society in commemoration of the 25th an-
niversary of the burning of the palisaded village of
Schenectady and the massacre of its inhabitants by the
French and Indians during the night of Feb. 8, 1690.

Committee on Memorial Publication

JOHN J. BIRCH, CHAIRMAN
W. N. P. DAILEY
WALTER J. REAGLES
BRADLEY L. WILSON
WILLIAM C. YATES
FRANK C. ZAPP

The Story of the SCHENECTADY MASSACRE

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
THE CITY OF ALBANY, N.Y.

Compiled on Historical Foundation

John J. Brown, Chairman
W. H. F. Davis
Walter J. Brown
Robert L. Wilson
William C. Yates
Frank C. Zant

1755258

10 MAR 23 '73

F
851725: The story of the Schenectady massacre; published under the
.848 auspices of the Schenectady Chamber of commerce and the
Schenectady county historical society in commemoration of
the 250th anniversary of the burning of the palisaded village
of Schenectady and the massacre of its inhabitants by the
French and Indians during the night of Feb. 8, 1690. Com-
mittee on memorial publication: John J. Birch, chairman,
W. N. P. Dailey ... [and others] [Schenectady, N. Y., 1910,
24 p. 1 illus. 23cm.

"List of books": p. 23-24.

1. Schenectady, N. Y.--Destruction, 1690. I. Birch, John Joseph,
1891-- II. Schenectady, N. Y. Chamber of commerce. III. Schenec-
tady county historical society, Schenectady, N. Y.

40-4355

Library of Congress

F129.S589

Copy 2.

Gift 140 Copyright A 136670

CHIEF CLERK 31

974.744

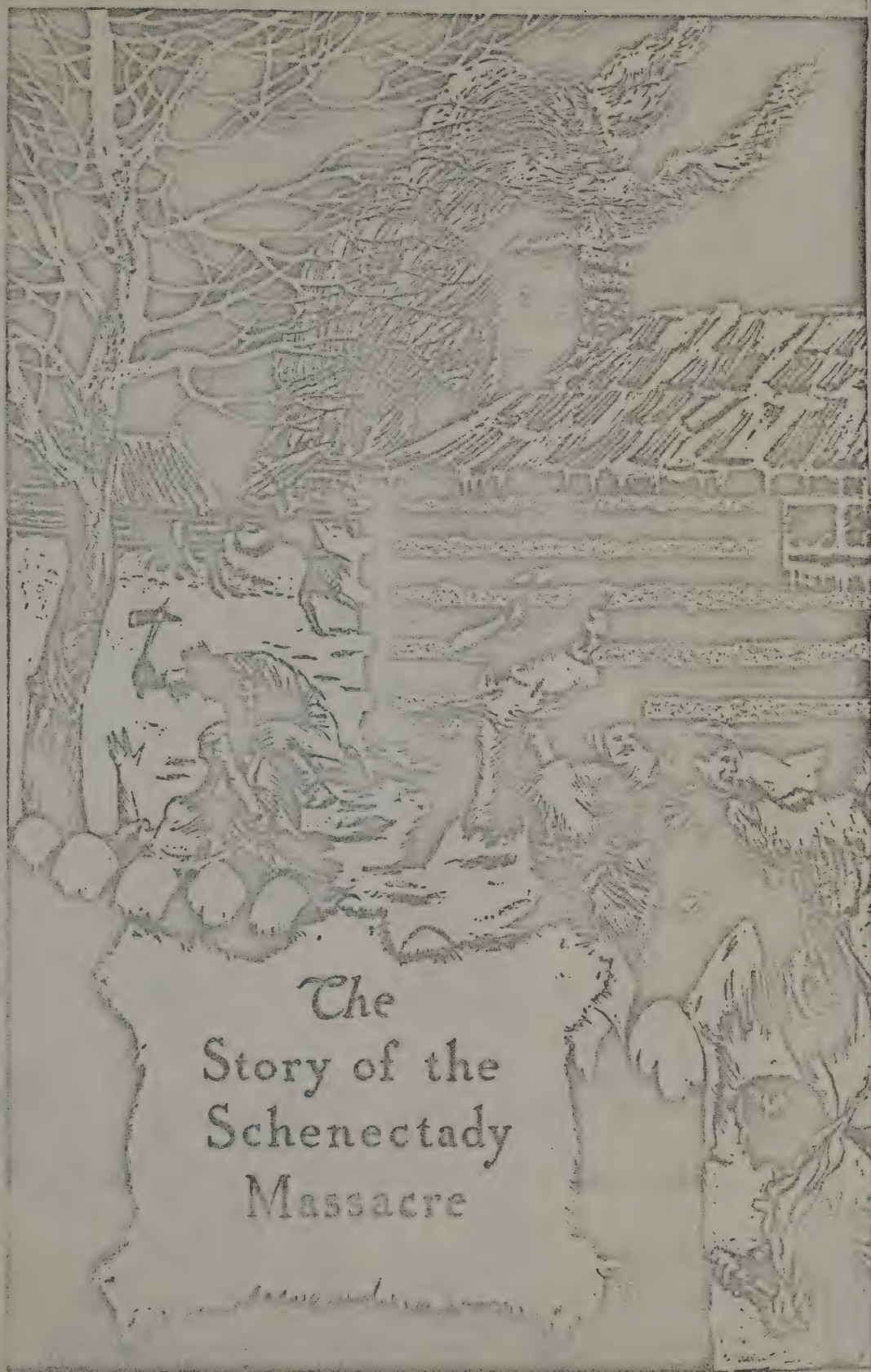
175228

10 May 20 12

The story of the Schenck family is a story of a family that has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement.

The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement.

The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement. The family is one of the oldest in the county and has been in the country since the early days of settlement.



The
Story of the
Schenectady
Massacre



FOREWORD

TWO CENTURIES AND A HALF have passed since Symon Schermerhorn awakened Albany with the news that "ye French and Indians had murthured ye People of Skinnectady"—two and a half centuries of steady growth and progress.

Schenectady in 1690, with the careless confidence of youth, had felt secure, but potent forces were at work to give the lie to such security. The shift in European politics which carried France and England into war had found a field for action in America, and ancient Indian hostilities found allies from across the sea. Thus the struggle for an English crown, an empire in America, the possession of rich hunting grounds had conspired all unwittingly to bring destruction to Schenectady.

But Schenectady, unhappy victim of the quarrels of others, was not sacrificed in vain for from its ashes came the call for union of the English colonies against the French and Indian domination. Within the next one hundred years the force of such united action had driven France from Canada and made our independence from Great Britain possible.

The story here presented of the massacre at Schenectady should be of interest to the people of the United States due to the far-reaching significance of the events which followed in its train.



TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
of the
SCHENECTADY MASSACRE

Executive Committee

HON. ROBERT W. BAXTER
Chairman, Executive Committee

HON. MILLS TEN EYCK
Mayor of Schenectady
Chairman, Honorary Committee

JOHN J. BIRCH
Vice Pres. Sch'dy Co. Hist. Soc.

EDWIN G. CONDE
Trustee, Sch'dy Co. Hist. Soc.

CLARENCE B. HEISLER
Schenectady Chamber of Commerce

FAY H. MARVIN
Schenectady Chamber of Commerce

P. SCHUYLER MILLER
Sec'y Van Epps-Hartley Chapter
New York State Archeological Assn.

LEO U. MURRAY
President Schenectady Chamber of Commerce

WILLIAM H. PILLSBURY
Supt. of Schenectady Public Schools

JOHN R. SHEEHAN
Schenectady Chamber of Commerce

CARL W. SNYDER
Dist. Mgr. New York Telephone Co.

LEO H. VOSBURGH
Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Sch'dy Co.

CLYDE D. WAGONER
Trustee, Sch'dy Co. Hist. Soc.

MALCOLM J. WILSON
Sec. of The Chamber of Commerce

WILLIAM C. YATES
Trustee, Sch'dy Co. Hist. Soc.

FRANK C. ZAPP
President, Sch'dy Co. Hist. Soc.

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

BY

JOSEPH NEASE, ESQ.

VOLUME I.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CITY.

FROM 1630 TO 1690.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

THE FIRST VOLUME.

THE SECOND VOLUME.

THE THIRD VOLUME.

THE FOURTH VOLUME.

THE FIFTH VOLUME.

THE SIXTH VOLUME.

THE SEVENTH VOLUME.

THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

THE NINTH VOLUME.

THE TENTH VOLUME.

THE ELEVENTH VOLUME.

THE TWELFTH VOLUME.

THE THIRTEENTH VOLUME.

THE FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

THE FIFTEENTH VOLUME.

THE SIXTEENTH VOLUME.

THE SEVENTEENTH VOLUME.

THE EIGHTEENTH VOLUME.

THE NINETEENTH VOLUME.

THE TWENTIETH VOLUME.



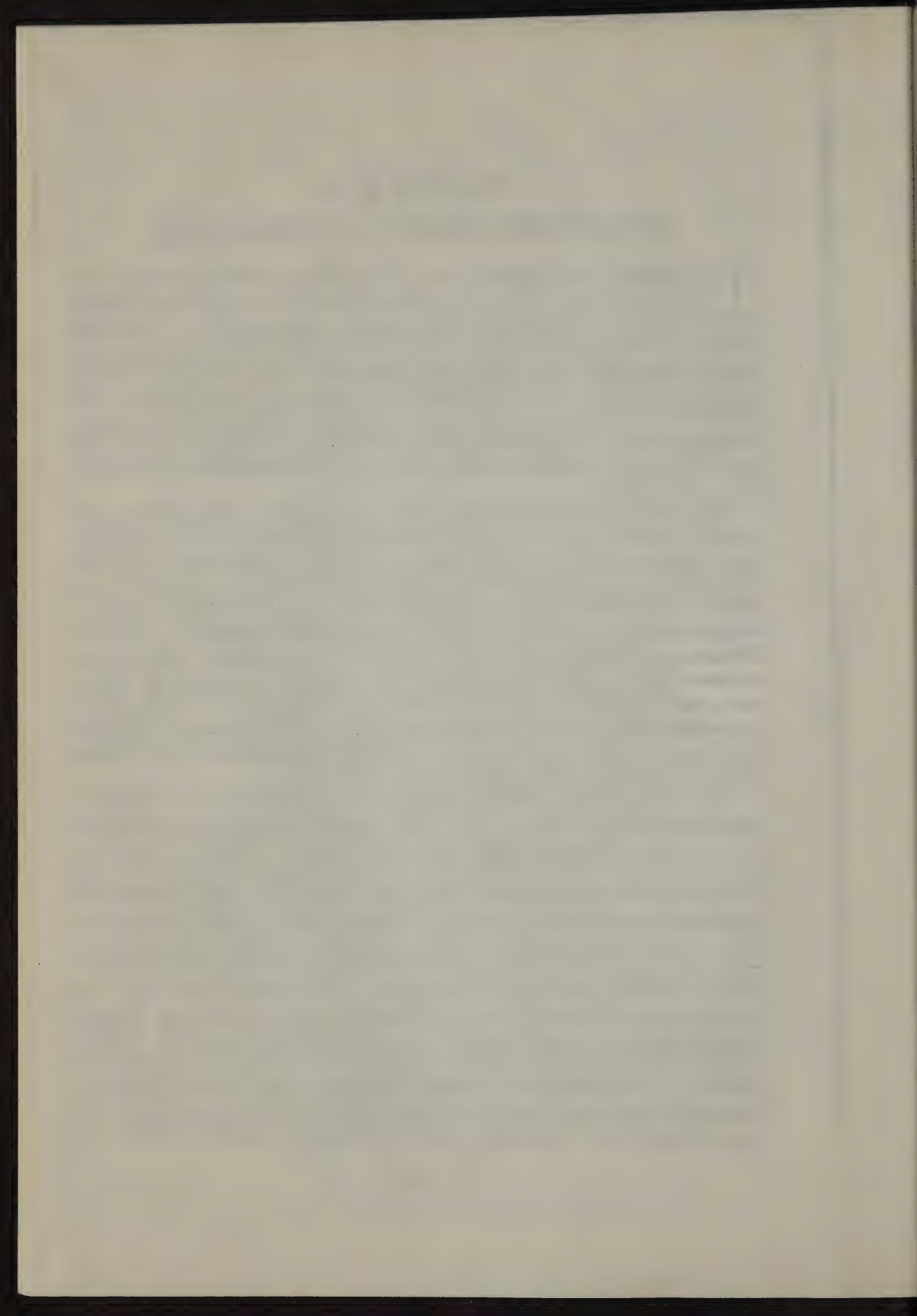


The Story of the SCHENECTADY MASSACRE

THE massacre and destruction of the village of Schenectady in the Colony of New York on the night of February 8, 1690 is an incident which has an extremely important place in the annals of American history. The story has often been told of how on that cold, snowy Saturday night, one hundred and fourteen Frenchmen and ninety-six Indians under the command of Lieutenants Le Moyne de Sainte Helene and Daillebout de Mantet stole in upon the unguarded sleeping hamlet, massacred sixty of the inhabitants, carried away twenty-seven prisoners and left in ashes the Dutch village which Van Curler had founded twenty-nine years before.

The attack on the village was not a mere raid by roving Indians for murder and plunder, but the culmination of a number of social and political influences which had long been at work. On December 11, 1688, James II, who styled himself "the most Catholic" King of England, was forced to abandon his throne and leave the country. He fled to France seeking refuge under Louis XIV, whose adopted daughter, Mary of Modena, was James's wife and so in line for the throne. France gave asylum to James and promised to aid him recover his throne. In the meantime, the English people invited William of Orange and his wife, Mary, to become their king and queen. So now the European struggle assumed the form of a great war between Louis XIV, King of France, and William III, the new King of Great Britain and Ireland.

The struggle soon spread from the old world into the new where it was styled King William's War. The French Colonies were along the St. Lawrence, while the English were to the south fringing the seaboard from the mouth of the Kennebec River to the Spanish Colony at Florida. Count Frontenac was sent by Louis XIV in October 1689 to replace the impolitic Denonville as Governor of Canada. He had held that post before but had been recalled in 1682 because he had quarreled with the religious orders powerful in New France. The French king commissioned him to "build a new Empire in America," well knowing that there was no other man in France better qualified for that arduous task. Though nearly seventy years old, he was a man of wonderful energy and vivacity; friendly Indians adored him, hostile Indians feared him. To carry out this mission, it was planned for him first to conquer the English Colonies to the south. He was to do so by mustering sixteen hundred men at Montreal, pass through Lake Champlain and Lake George in canoes and bateaux,

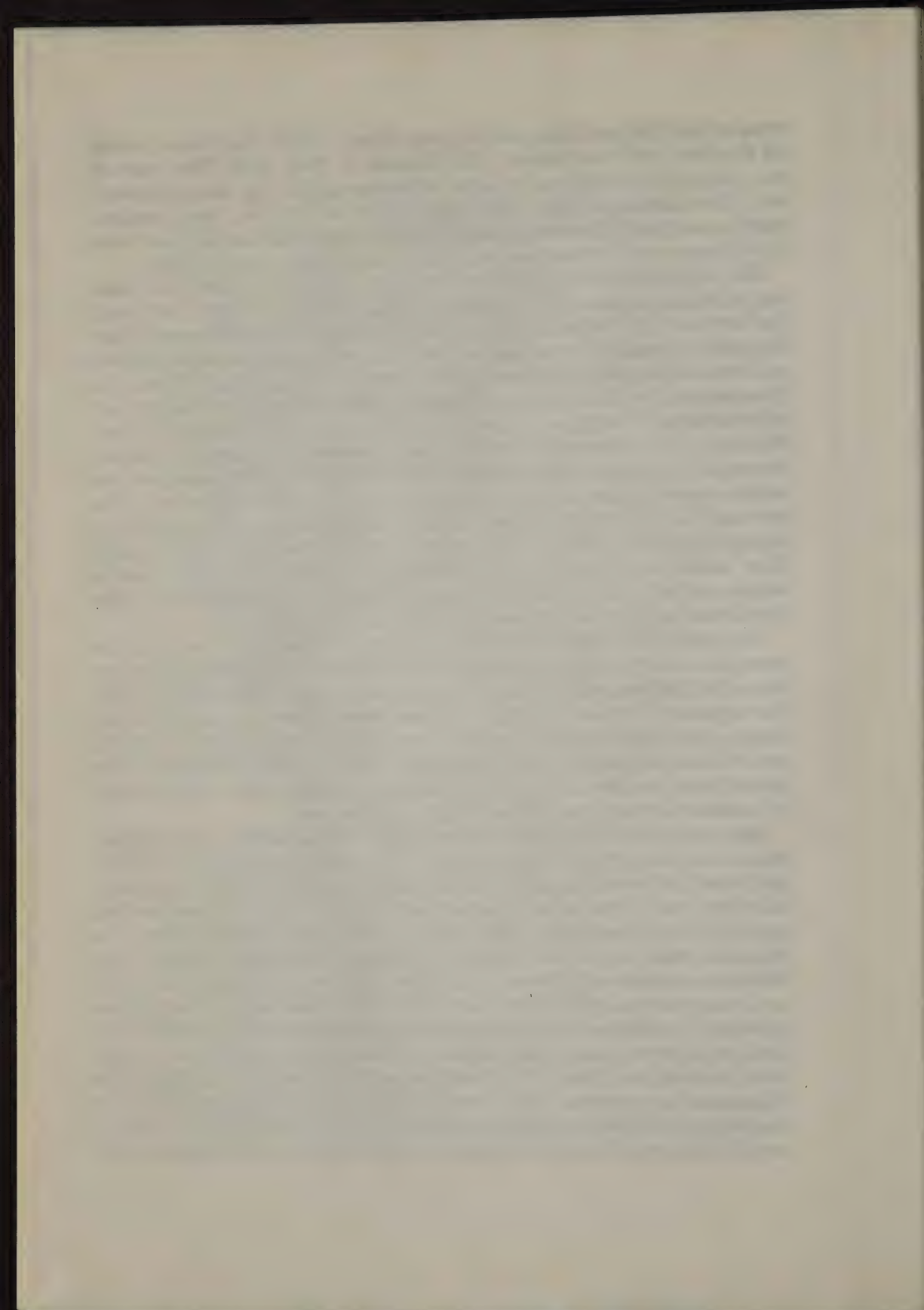


cross to the Hudson River and capture Albany. There they were to seize all the river craft and descend the Hudson to New York. Two men-of-war, dispatched from France, were to cannonade the city simultaneously with the attacking soldiers. But long delays, unfavorable winds and numerous unexpected events detained him so long that he did not reach New France until it was too late in the year to carry out the plan.

But while he had been crossing the ocean, the Iroquois had been making incursions against the French and Algonquins. In 1687 the French had invited fifty Iroquois chiefs to a conference at Fort Frontenac (now Kingston, Canada). Upon their arrival they were seized and sent captives to France where they were consigned to serve in the galleys at Marseilles. Exasperated by this treachery fifteen hundred Iroquois on August 4th, 1689 attacked LaChine, a town six miles up the St. Lawrence from Montreal. In an hour the buildings were burned, the garnered harvest destroyed, between three hundred and four hundred French settlers and soldiers were butchered; one hundred thirty men were brought back to be tortured for the entertainment of those left at home, or to supply the savage feasts with unusual and dainty meat. This was the most dreadful blow which the French had yet sustained, and one of the most terrible events recorded in Canadian history. "Canada," says Parkman, "lay bewildered and benumbed under the shock of the calamity."

Frontenac now was very anxious to carry a retaliatory war into the enemy's country, thinking that by so doing he would detach the Iroquois from the English and also raise the depressed spirit of his Indian allies. He organized forthwith, three separate expeditions to penetrate and ravage the English territory at as many different points. It was during one of these incursions that Schenectady was attacked. Therefore it can be said that the direct cause of the massacre was the desire of Frontenac to menace the outposts of the English settlements.

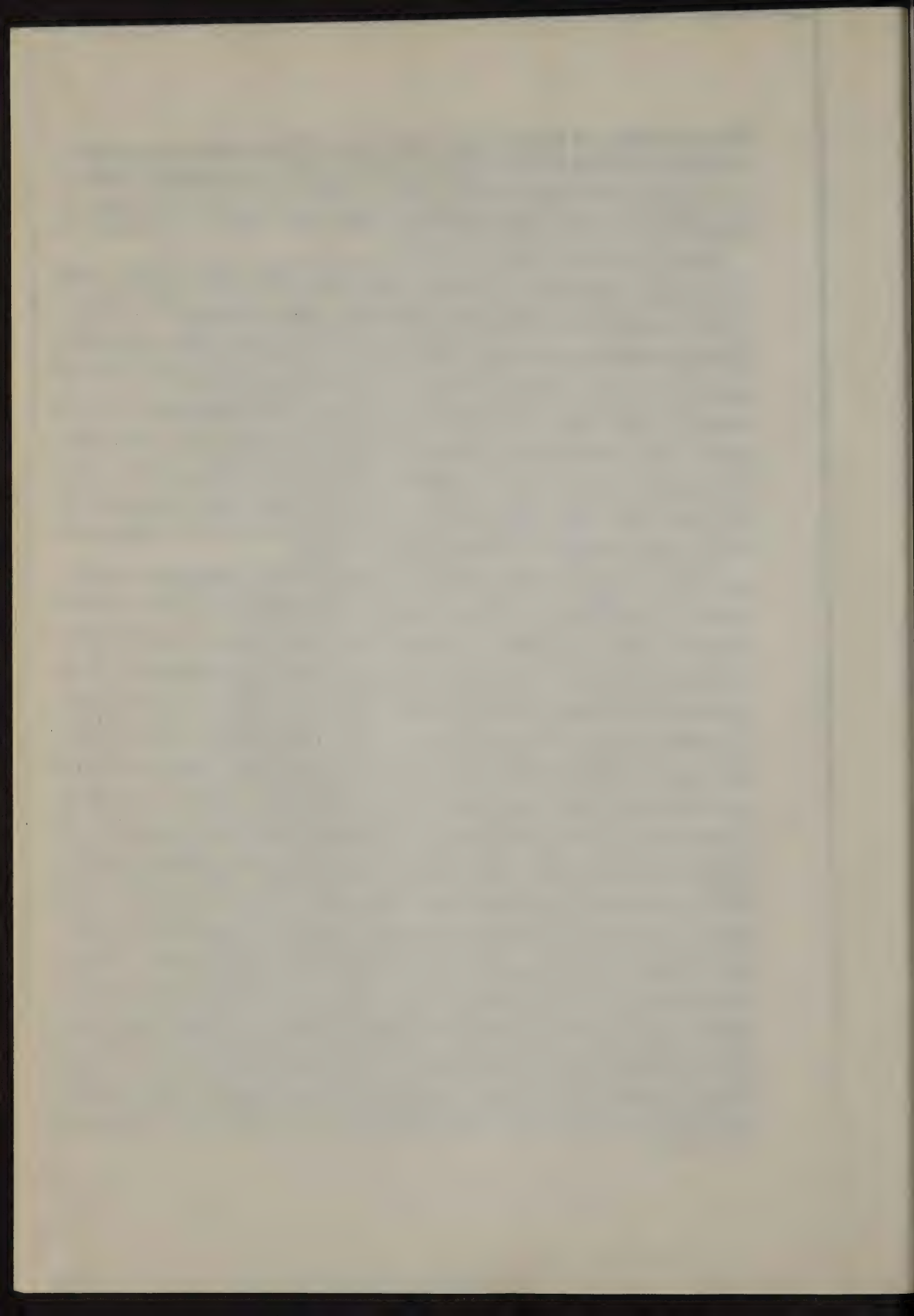
But apart from this there were a number of secondary causes closely related to the current Indian politics. When the colonies of New France and New York were founded, the Amerinds were divided into two powerful tribes: the Algonquins living on both sides of the St. Lawrence and east of Lake Champlain, Lake George and the Hudson River; the Iroquois, made up of the Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas, Oneidas and Mohawks, collectively known as the Five Nations or Iroquois Confederacy, occupying roughly what is now New York State and northern Pennsylvania. Tradition states that at a remote time these two powerful tribes lived together in peace, the Iroquois cultivating the soil and the Algonquins hunting and fishing. The Iroquois, seeking diversion, challenged the Algonquins to compete with them in a friendly hunting expedition. Six members of each tribe were chosen and set out for the hunting country to establish a camp. Soon after making camp the Algonquins disappeared to



the amazement of the Iroquois. At the end of three days they returned, declared that they had been hunting, but had been unsuccessful. Evidently they had been scouting for game so that when the hunt began in earnest, they would know where to secure their quarry as quickly as possible and thus become the victors.

Shortly after the Algonquin hunters returned, the Iroquois stole quietly from camp and in less than a day returned with an abundance of game. The tillers of the soil had beaten the mighty hunters! The Algonquins naturally were deeply humiliated and during the night massacred the six Iroquois contestants. This treachery in time was discovered and from then on the Iroquois' hatred for the Algonquins knew no bounds. But the Iroquois were powerless in the hands of the Algonquins who had recently allied themselves with the Hurons. To declare war would have meant their annihilation, for the Algonquins at that time were not only more numerous but better warriors, so the Iroquois departed from the St. Lawrence Valley and settled in the area where they were found by the white men. But they swore eternal vengeance upon the Algonquins and for generations a relentless warfare ensued.

Finally Champlain came with the French into the Algonquin territory. Because he wore the metal armor still fashionable in Europe he was called by the Indians "the man with the iron breast." He soon became convinced that to be safe from attack he must necessarily court the favor of his nearest neighbors. In the summer of 1609 he accompanied a war party of sixty Hurons and Algonquins from near Quebec in an expedition against the Mohawks. They met their foe on the western shore of Lake Champlain in the vicinity of what is now Ticonderoga. The Canadian Indians advanced towards their enemy. Suddenly their ranks parted and Champlain moved forward with his arquebus. The Mohawks halted in astonishment at the unexpected sight of his shining armor. He fired his weapon and his shot was so well aimed that he killed two Mohawks and wounded another. The terrific report, the smoke of the discharge and the sight of the three fallen warriors decided the conflict, and the Mohawks fled in disorder—not pleased with their first experience with the white men. The Canadian Indians gave pursuit and killed nearly half of them. Champlain doubtlessly was very much gratified with this easy victory. But unfortunately he was ignorant of what this would later involve, for he did not know how powerful and ruthless were his enemies, the Iroquois. Unknowingly he had allied himself with the weaker side in the envenomed politics of the forest. Little did he realize that he had placed an almost insurmountable barrier to the southern expansion of New France—that he had secured a heritage of savage enmity which contributed more than any other one cause toward crippling the energies of his domain.

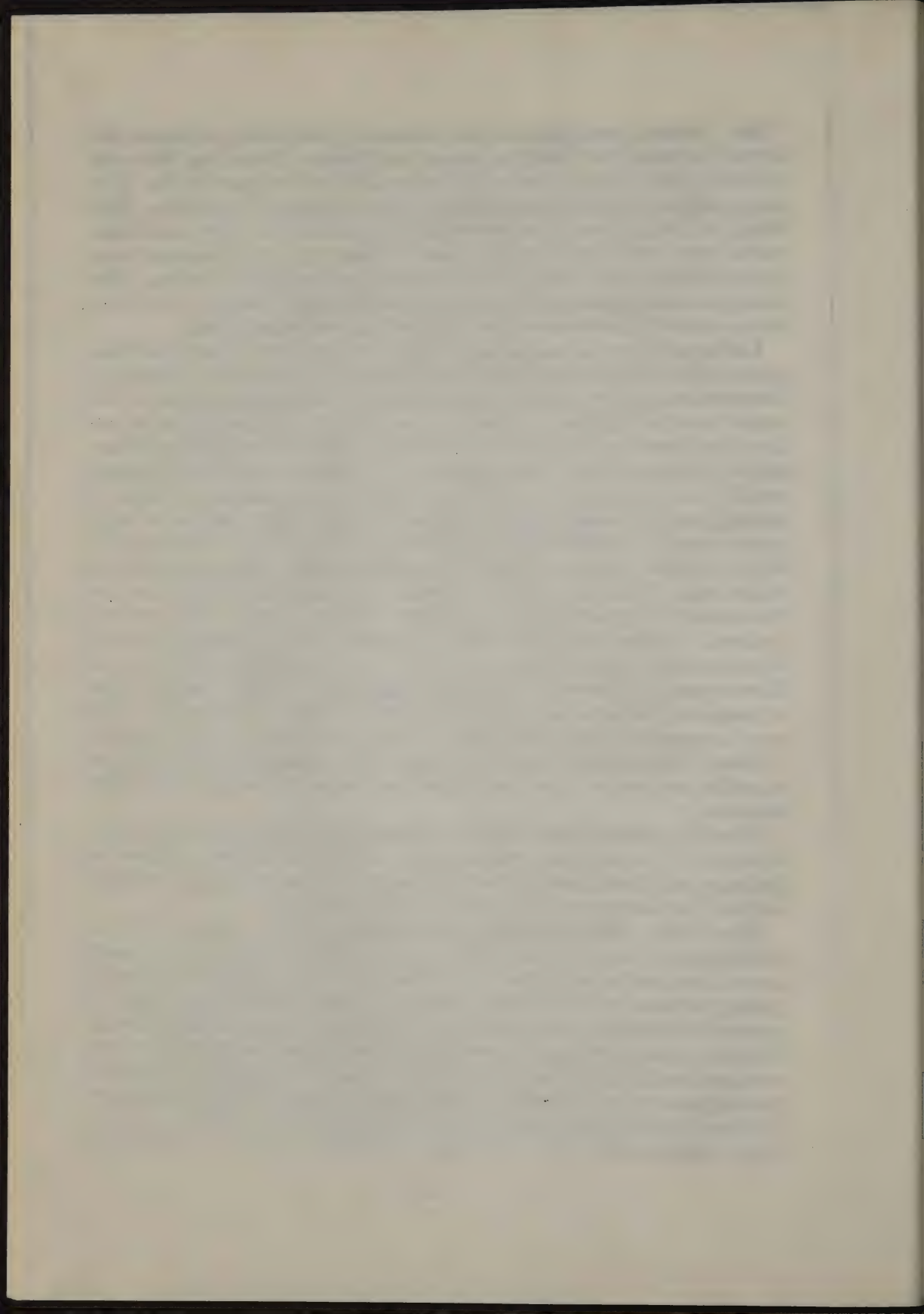


This incident created in the Iroquois an ardent desire to possess firearms. So, when the Dutch came up the Hudson River the Mohawks received them kindly because they were afraid of the guns of the white men, and also because they discovered they were not Frenchmen. They hoped to obtain from them the same kind of firearms which the Algonquins were receiving from the French. Thus the Dutch secured both protection and pelts from the Mohawks in exchange for firearms. Now that guns were possessed by both Algonquins and Iroquois there were innumerable raids one upon the other lasting until nearly 1700.

During all these controversies, the Jesuits from New France had been penetrating farther and farther into the Iroquois' territory, sedulous in their efforts both to convert the savages and divert their trade in furs away from the English and Dutch to the French. The heroic Jesuits had long been working successfully in the three Mohawk villages at Ossernenon, Andagaron and Tionontoguen. The Indians' mind and language readily lent themselves to the symbolic and picturesque methods of thought and expression used by these Catholic fathers, and as a result many converts had been made. The Dutch and English took little account of the Indians except to protect themselves against them and profit by their trade. Thus the Catholic French succeeded far better than the Protestants in their missionary labors. A large number of converted Indians, together with their chief, Kryn, had been persuaded to leave Caughnawaga (near Fonda) and settle on an island in the St. Lawrence River opposite Montreal, to the great indignation of their heathen countrymen and the annoyance of the English Colonists to whom they were ever a menace. From that time on they were known as the "praying Indians." They had suffered at the hands of the Iroquois in 1689 and were therefore anxious to serve the French and eager to avenge their fallen brethren.

Thus the desire of the French to dominate the New World, and their inciting of the savages, animated by traditional hatred, commercial jealousy and theological rancor, to take part in the struggle, combined to form the background of the Schenectady massacre.

The Leisler affair throughout the Hudson Valley together with the feeling that it would be impossible for an enemy from Canada to march several hundred miles in the depth of winter, through the snow, bearing their provisions on their backs, largely accounted for the fact that the gates of the stockade were open and the village unguarded. Undoubtedly had the community been prepared for an attack the foe could have been repulsed until relief arrived from Albany. The Leisler trouble grew out of the religious prejudices anent the abdication of James II. When the news of the situation reached the English Colonies it was followed by confusion and anarchy. The adherents of William and Mary vehemently



insisted that the officers appointed by James II had no further authority. In Boston, Governor General Edmund Andros, who had been sent by James II to govern all New England, New York and New Jersey, although a Protestant, had been thrown in prison. His deputy, Sir Francis Nicholson, Governor of the New York Province, was suspected of being a Roman Catholic and it was thought that he intended to betray New York into the hands of the French. Nicholson absconded from the Colony to an English ship and the Committee of Safety selected Jacob Leisler to be the leader of the people until a new governor should arrive. Leisler, aside from being the captain of the militia, was a well-do-to merchant and also a deacon in the Dutch Reformed Church. After having been given the power of governor he straightway appointed Protestant officers. News of the events in New York City spread to Albany, at which place the leaders, including Schuyler and Livingston would not recognize Leisler. Religious partisanship was also rampant at Schenectady which made the village especially open to attack. Schenectady itself was strongly Leislerian. It was truly a time of disobedience, distraction, wild riot and disorder. Captain Sander Glen, commandant of the place, and his brother Johannes, owner of the Scotia estate, together with a number of the wealthier citizens were not in sympathy with Leisler. Glen had repeatedly cautioned the people of the village to keep their sentinels posted and the gates closed, but in derision of his advice, the gates were left open, and according to tradition guarded only by two snowmen. Although Lieutenant Enos Talmadge and his Connecticut Militia were in the fort, they, like Glen were under the popular ban for they were anti-Leislerian. As a result of this disregard of counsel and the pervading apathy among the citizens on that fatal night of February 8, 1690 no preparations were made to repel possible invaders from the North.

Schenectady well knew of the impending danger, for a band of "praying Indians" had been captured by the Mohawks who learned through them the plan of Frontenac. Schenectady appealed to Albany and later to Boston for protection, but aid was denied. Later in that year Glen and several other citizens of the village besought Hartford to send help and eighty-seven men under Captain Bull were dispatched, but Albany kept two-thirds of the contingent along with the commander. Lieutenant Talmadge and the remainder came on to Schenectady in November and were killed in the massacre. Early in the winter a band of scouts had also been sent northward to watch for the approach of a possible enemy, but during their absence the destruction of Schenectady was accomplished.

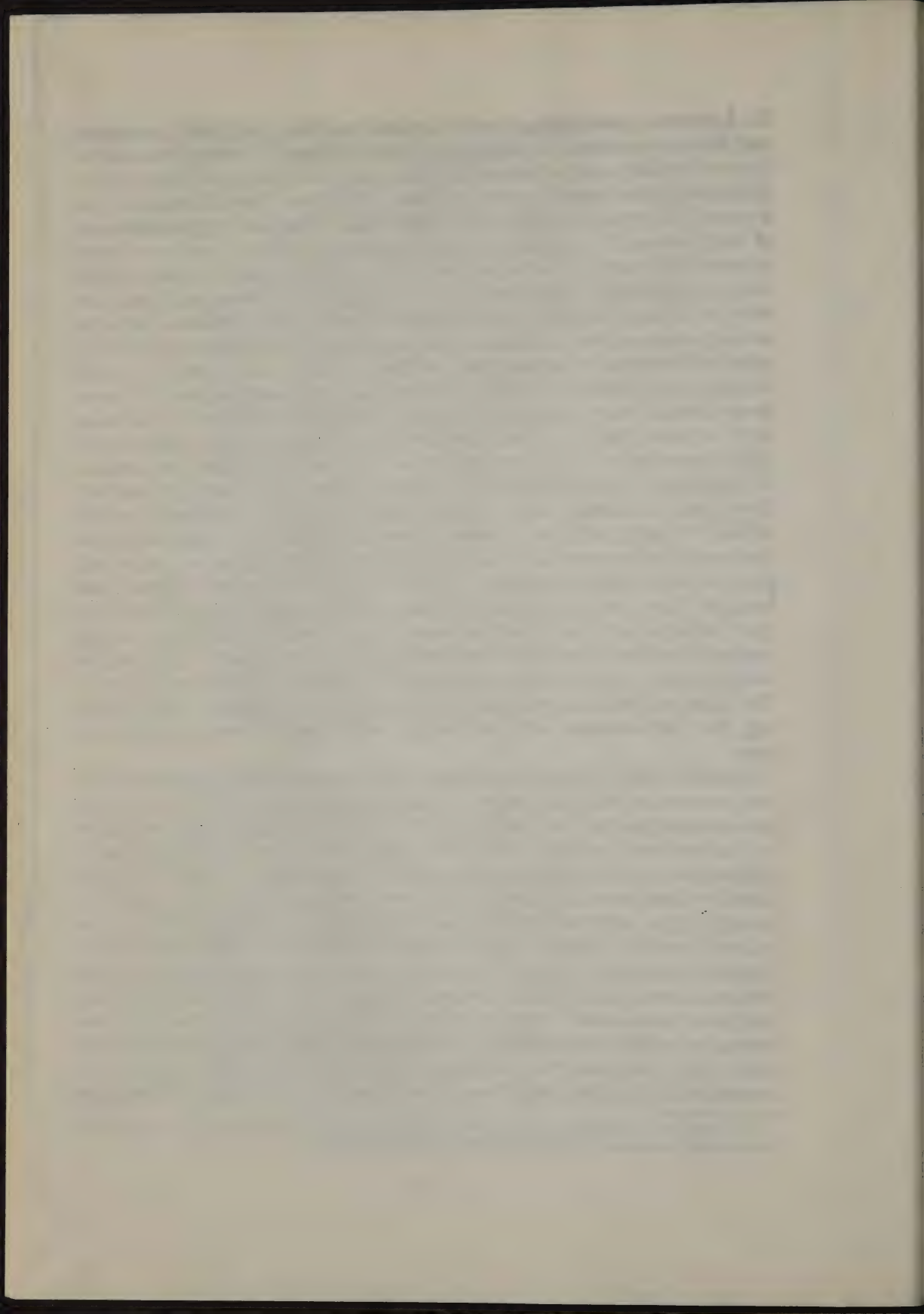
In the middle of January 1690, one hundred fourteen Frenchmen and ninety-six Indians, most of whom had been converted by the Jesuits from the Mohawk villages, started from Montreal to attack the English settlements. They strode on snowshoes over the vast white field of the



St. Lawrence, carrying gun and hatchet and dragging their provisions and blankets on sleds. Crossing the forest to Chambly, they advanced for four or five days up the frozen Richelieu and over the ice of Lake Champlain and then stopped somewhere near what is now Fort Edward to hold a council. Frontenac had left the precise point of attack to the discretion of the leaders. The officers decided to attack Albany and the party resumed the march. After a number of days they reached the point where the trail diverged (Schuylerville), one leading to Schenectady and the other to Albany. But Kryn, the influential leader of the Indians, had been sowing seeds of propaganda on the march and the Indians decided to attack Schenectady instead, and without further words took the path leading to the Mohawk Valley. A thaw had set in and they waded knee-deep through snow and slush. It was exhausting work, for it took nine days to make the trip from Schuylerville to Schenectady, a distance of thirty-seven miles by their route. At last they arrived within two leagues of the village (six miles) late in the afternoon. But just before they reached their goal, a blizzard came howling down from the northwest, which chilled the party to the very bone. It was one of those cold days when the trees stand as spectres in the sheltered hollows of the forest and bare and gray on the wind-swept ridges. The men were half frozen, fatigued and hungry. Kryn harangued his followers and exhorted them to wash out their wrongs in blood. They advanced again and in the late evening reached the river a little below the village. A scouting party which earlier had been sent out returned, and reported that they "had seen no one." The plan had been to postpone the attack until two o'clock in the morning, but the extreme cold and biting wind forced them to attack at once.

Stealthily they crossed the river on the ice and divided the party into two companies with the intent of entering the town, one by a gate in the northern part of the stockade (Church Street) and the other by a gate in the southern stockade (near Ferry and State Streets). The company assigned to the latter gate could not find it on account of the snow, and therefore both parties entered by the northern gate. One party turned to the right, the other to the left, and filed around the village between the palisade and the houses until the leaders met at the farther end, thus forming a complete cordon. The hideous war-whoop sounded; doors were broken down with hatchets; the settlers leapt from their beds to fall before the tomahawks; women seized their children and ran into the streets to be shot down alike by French and Indians. Death met them on every side; the snow was crimsoned with their blood; the streets were strewn with the dead and dying. The flames of nearly eighty* dwellings

*Although most documentary accounts give the number as eighty, Charlevoix, the Jesuit historian of Canada makes the number forty. The latter is perhaps nearer the truth



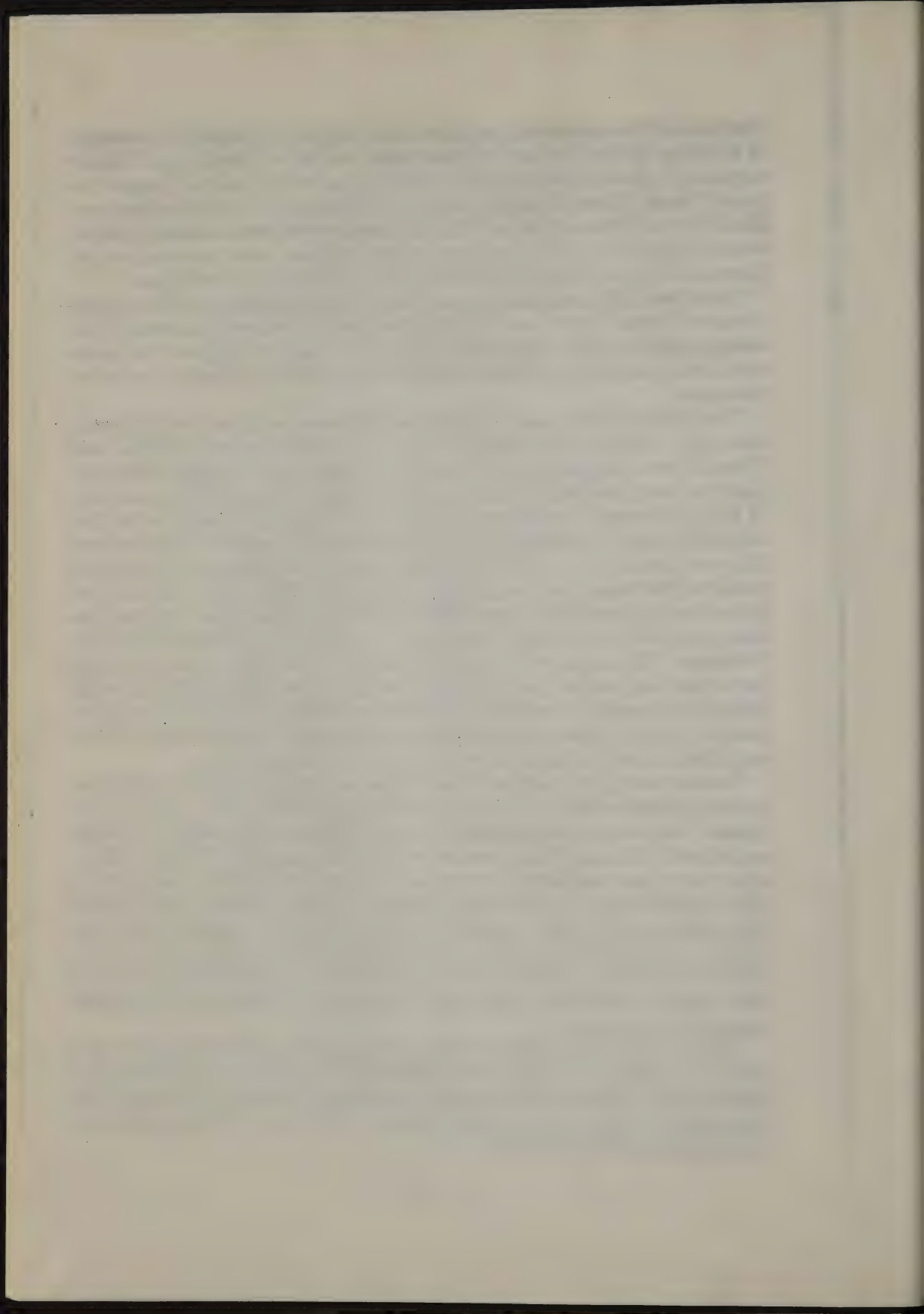
illuminated the winter sky, and in the lurid light the Indians with strings of bleeding scalps hanging at their sides danced in frantic joy. Neither women nor children were spared. "No pen can write, and no tongue express," wrote Pieter Schuyler, Mayor of Albany, in a letter to Governor Bradstreet of Massachusetts, "the cruelties committed at said place, ye women bigg with childe rip'd up and ye children alive throwne into ye flames and those Dash'd in Pieces against the Doors and windows."

There was little resistance except at the blockhouse near the present corner of Front Street and Washington Avenue where Lieutenant Talmadge and his twenty-four men made a stubborn stand, but the doors were forced and all but three of the defenders killed. These were taken prisoners.

The plucky fight made by Adam Vrooman and his family comes down by tradition. His house stood on the west corner of Front and Church Street opposite the North Gate. Being well supplied with ammunition and confident in the strength of his building, which was a sort of fort, he formed the desperate resolution to defend himself to the last extremity; and if it should prove to be his fate to perish in the flames of his own domicile to sell his life and that of his children as dearly as possible. His house was soon filled with smoke. His wife cautiously yet imprudently placed the upper half of the Dutch door ajar. An alert Indian perceived the opening and firing through the aperture killed Mrs. Vrooman. His daughter ran out of a side door with her infant sister in her arms. She escaped but the baby was torn from her grasp and its life dashed out against a portion of the house. Adam's brisk fire brought a parley with the enemy and his life and property were spared, but his son, Barent, and a Negro slave were carried into captivity.

Orders were given to spare Peter Tessemacker, the Dutch dominie or minister, from whom it was thought valuable information might be obtained, but during the holocaust he was killed and probably his house and church burned. Sixty persons were killed outright of whom thirty-eight were men and boys, ten women and twelve children. Some, more agile or fortunate than the rest, escaped and fled through the storm to seek shelter with families near by. Twenty-five of these fugitives lost their limbs in the flight through the severity of the cold. The utter helplessness of the inhabitants to offer resistance is shown by the fact that only two of the enemy were killed and only one severely injured, a Frenchman named de Martigny.

At the outset of the attack Simon Schermerhoorn threw himself on a horse and galloped through the northern gate to Albany, via Niskayuna. He was shot through the thigh but continued on and rode through the deep snow to warn the settlers at Albany—a ride more perilous and longer than the one of Paul Revere.



Early Sunday morning, d'Iberville with Kryn and some others crossed the river to Scotia where they found Johannes Glen and his family and servants prepared to defend his palisaded homestead. They told him they had orders to leave him undisturbed because he had always been kind to French prisoners when they were in the hands of the Mohawks. They urged Glen to go to the ruined village, and left one of their number as a hostage for his safe return. He was told that any of his kindred who were held prisoners would be released. He exercised this privilege so extensively that the Canadian Indians objected, because they said he could not possibly have so many relatives. He was however able to persuade the French not to take any of the women prisoners to Canada.

In the early afternoon of the same day the invaders were on their way with twenty-seven prisoners and all the horses making a swift retreat to Canada.

On Monday morning the tenth of February the court at Albany directed "y^e Captain Jonathan Bull be sent with five men out of each company to Skinnechtady to bury ye dead there and if ye Indians (Mohawks) be come downe to join with them and pursue ye enemy." Undoubtedly many of the victims were buried just outside the ruins of the northern gate, for in excavating for cellars in 1886 and 1887 in that vicinity, a number of skeletons were found. They were reinterred in near-by ground. Also in 1902 while excavations were made near the corner of Church and Front Street eight skeletons were found. As these locations have never been burying grounds there is every reason to believe the skeletons were those of victims of the massacre.

Two days later when the news of the calamity reached the Mohawk towns their warriors swarmed down the valley on snowshoes with guns and tomahawks ready to pursue the enemy. But the invaders with the help of the captured horses made such speed over the ice of Lake Champlain that it seemed impossible to overtake them. They thought the pursuit abandoned and having killed and eaten most of their horses, moved more slowly as they neared home. A few of the Mohawks had followed stanchly on their tracks and fell upon a party of stragglers and killed or captured fifteen or more almost within sight of Montreal.

It has been said that the shot fired at Lexington and Concord was heard around the world, but the blood spilled in this raid and in the two other blows by Frontenac (Salmon Falls, New Hampshire and Portland, Maine) did more than anything else to show the Colonies the need for union—for common protection. On the first of May 1690 there assembled at New York City a congress to concert measures of attack upon Canada—the first of a series which later ended in the great Continental Congress.

The conflict was now on in earnest, for the Colonists could not allow such cruel deeds to go unavenged. Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecti-

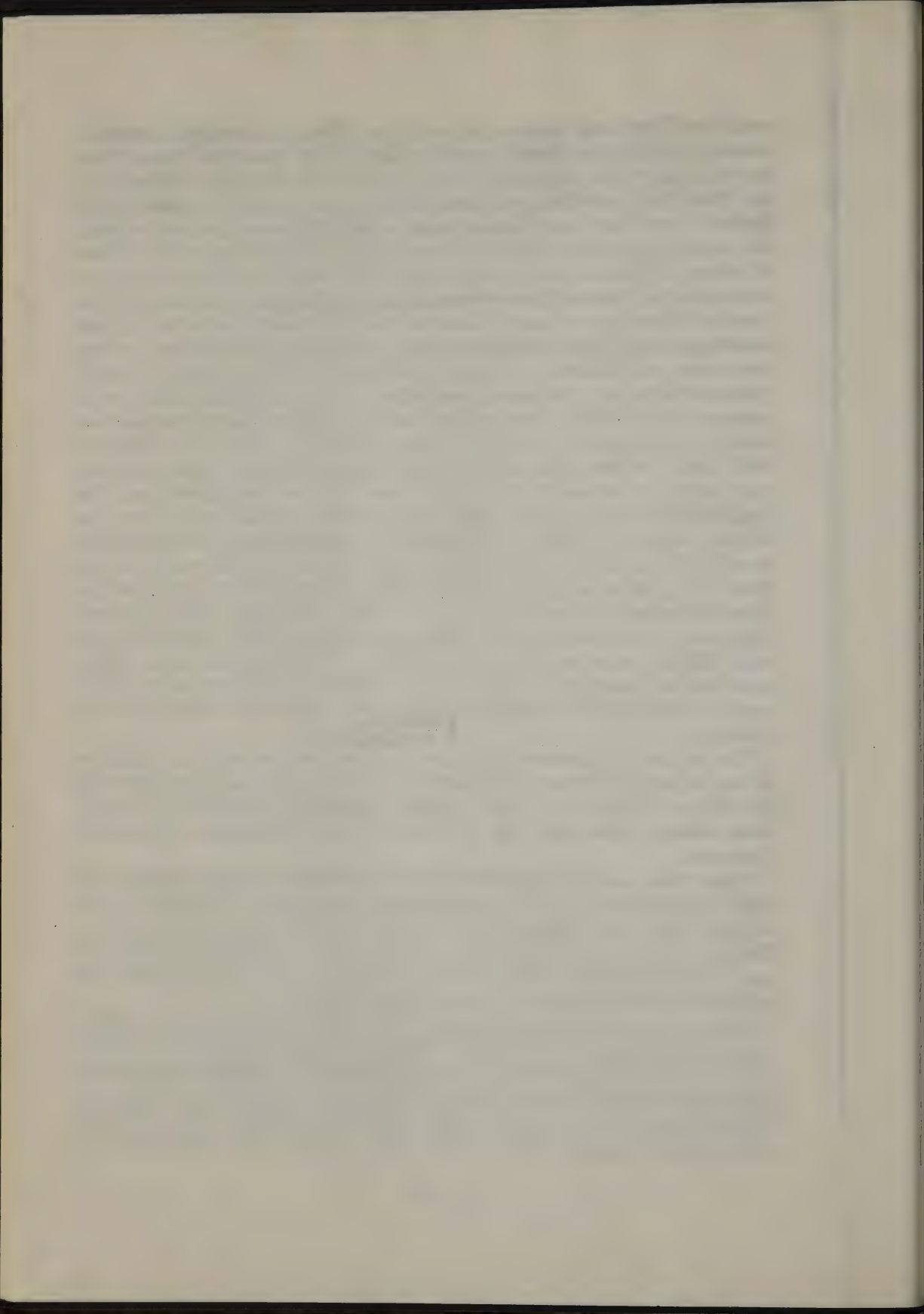
cut, New York and even as far south as Maryland, resolved upon an invasion of Canada. Each agreed to furnish its quota of troops. One hundred thirty-five responded from Connecticut; fifty from Maryland; and New York furnished one hundred fifty men and one hundred eighty Indians; but those from Massachusetts and Plymouth did not appear. The troops were placed under the command of Major General Fitz John Winthrop of Connecticut. On July 30, 1690 they left Albany and proceeded up the Hudson River towards Canada. But the little army of five hundred fifteen got no nearer Canada than Whitehall because of the lack of sufficient canoes and provision, and the breaking out of smallpox among the troops, and dissension among the subordinates in command. Captain Johannes Schuyler, the great grandfather of General Phillip Schuyler, in command of the Dutch troops was clearly dissatisfied that the expedition should be disbanded without an attempt to strike a blow. He was especially fearful of the effect of the failure upon the Indians who were just then wavering between the French who were so belligerent and the English who showed so little fight. He therefore resolved not to return to Albany without an effort to bring back something to show for all the trouble. He applied to Winthrop for permission to go forward. It was cheerfully granted and immediately forty whites and one hundred Indians volunteered to accompany him. Loading the canoes with sufficient equipment they started north. They surprised La Prairie south of Montreal, killed a number of the inhabitants, took many prisoners, did a great deal of damage and returned with but little loss to themselves. This was the first English armed force that ever penetrated Canada from the Colonies.

1755258

The success of Johannes Schuyler's raid seemed to whet the appetite of the Albany Dutchmen and also the Indians for more experiences of like flavor. On June 21, 1691 another successful raiding party started from Albany, this time led by Major Pieter Schuyler, a brother of Johannes.

These two successes preserved the friendship of the Iroquois and their friendship at that time was absolutely essential to England's hold on New York and indisputably New York was the key to the situation. There is nothing in the records to indicate that the English government ever took any notice of these heroic deeds performed by the Schuylers at this very critical juncture in our Colonial history.

Also as a result of the planning of the New York Congress, a fleet under the command of Sir William Phipps was fitted up to sail from Nantasket to the St. Lawrence and co-operate with the land forces which were destined to attack Montreal under Winthrop. They did not arrive, so Phipps lingered for some time in the St. Lawrence River. But if he had sailed at once against Quebec, that place would have been forced to



capitulate; but vexatious delays retarded the expedition until the middle of October. Meanwhile an Indian had carried the news of the coming armaments to Frontenac, so that when the fleet came in sight of the town, the Castle of St. Louis was so well garrisoned and provisioned as to bid defiance to the English forces. The opportunity was lost, and there was nothing else for Phipps to do but to sail home. Because of the debts incurred in fitting out this expedition, Massachusetts was forced to issue paper money. Thus the burning of Schenectady quite directly caused the first use of paper money in America.

For five years following, until the Treaty of Ryswick, there was fighting and bushranging all along the New York and New England Frontier.

As the congress in New York encouraged the Colonists in general, so were the settlers of Schenectady in particular encouraged by the Mohawks to rebuild the village. Soon after the massacre some of the chiefs of the tribe met the survivors and promised them both aid and protection. One of them said:

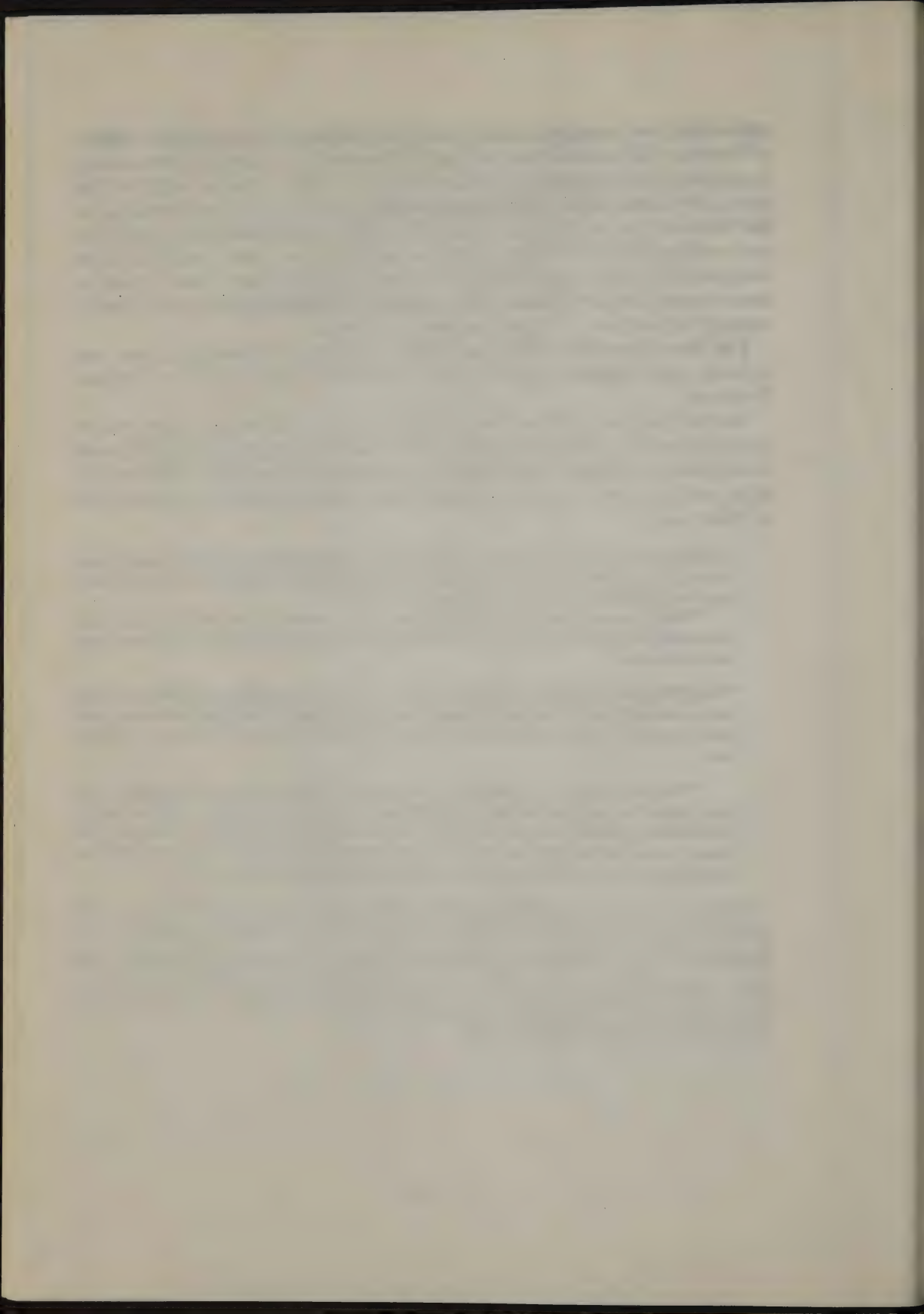
"BREThERN:—Wee are sory and Extreemly grieved for ye murther lately Committed by ye French upon our Brethren of Shinnectady wee Esteem this evill as if done to ourselves being all in one Covenant Chain,

"Wee Lament and Condole the death of so many of our brethren so basely murdered at Shinnectady, we cannot accompt it a great victory for itt is done by-way of Deciet.

"BREThERN:—Doe not be discouraged this is butt a beginning of ye Warr. We are strong enough, the whole house have there Eyes upon yrs and they only stay your motion and will bee ready to doe wathever shall be resolved upon by our Brethren.

"Wee Recommen ye brethren to keep good watch and if any Enemies came take care y' messengers be more speddily sent to us than lately was done we would not advise ye brethern quite to desert Shinnectady but to make a fort there. The Enemy would be too glorious to see it quite desolate and yr town is not well fortified ye stockades are so short ye Indians can jump over them like a dogg."

When a fort was authorized the Mohawks helped build it and the stockade was made Indian-fashion of small tree trunks interlaced with branches. The settlers were of the stuff that makes men courageous, and soon a new village, phoenixlike, arose out of the ashes of the old. From that time on Schenectady has progressed until it is now one of the foremost cities of the Empire State.



*"List of Ye People kild and Destroyed by ye French of Canida and there Indians at Skinnechtady twenty miles to ye Westward of Albany, between Saturday and Sunday ye 9th day of February, 16⁸²/₉₀."

"MYNDERT WEMP KILD"

He was the eldest son of Barentse Wemp (Wemple) who owned half of the great Island west of the town. His house lot was on the west side of Washington Avenue a little north of State Street.

"JAN VAN EPS AND HIS SONNE AND 2 OF HIS CHILDREN KILD."

The Van Eps house lot was on the north corner of Church Street and State Street.

"SERG^t CHURCH OF CAPT. BULL'S COMPY."

"BARENT JANSE (VAN DITMARS) KILD AND BURND HIS SONNE KILD."

His lot was on the east corner of Washington and State Streets. His son was Cornelis.

"ANDRIES ARENTSE BRATT SHOTT AND BURNT AND ALSO HIS CHILD."

Lived on north side of State Street near Washington Avenue. In the massacre his wife, Margareta Jacobse Van Slyck, and two other children were spared.

"MARIA VIELE WIFE OF DOWE AUKE'S AND HER TWO CHILDREN KILLD.
AND HIS NEGRO WOMAN FRANCYN."

"MARIA ALOFF WIFE OF CORNELIS VIELEE JUN' SHOTT."

The Vieles were killed in one house, standing on the south corner of Mill Lane and State Street next the ancient church. Aukes kept an inn there.

"SWEER TEUNISE (VAN VELSEN) SHOTT AND BURNT HIS WIFE KILD AND BURNT."

Van Velsen's house was next east of Douwe Auke's, on the south side of State Street. He was the town miller and directly in the rear of his house stood his corn mill on Mill Lane. Marker there at present. He died without heirs and a portion of his estate was given to the church.

"ANTJE JANZ DAUGHTER OF JAN SPOOR KILD AND BURNT."

"FOUR NEGROES OF YE SAID SWEER TEUNISE YE SAME DEATH."

"ENOS TALMIDGE LEIFT. OF CAPT BULL KILD AND BURNT."

"HEND: MEESE VROOMAN AND BARTHOLOMEUS VROOMAN KILD AND BURNT."

"TWO NEGROES OF HEND: MEESE YE SAME DEATH."

Vrooman lived on the north side of State Street where the New York Central Railroad crosses. This was outside the stockade.

"GERRIT MARCELLIS AND HIS WIFE AND CHILDE KILED."

Present location of Holtzman's Clothing Store, north side of State Street.

"ROB' ALEXANDER SOLD' OF CAPT BULLS SHOTT."

He was probably quartered in the blockhouse at north angle of village at corner of Front Street and Washington Avenue.

"ROBERT HESSELING."

Residence unknown.

"SANDER YE SONNE OF GYSBERT GERRITSE (VAN BRAKEL) KILD AND BURNT."

He lived on east corner of Ferry and State Streets.

"JAN ROELOFFSE DE GOYER BURNT IN YE HOUSE."

He was the son of the famous Annke Janse and lived opposite the present Education Building on Union Street. He left no descendants.

"RALPH GRANT A SOULDIER IN YE FORT SHOTT."

"DAVID CHRISTOFFSLSE AND HIS WIFE Wth 4 CHILDREN ALL BURNT IN THERE HOUSE."

His house was on the east side of Church Street, opposite what is now the Red Cross headquarters.

"JORIS AERTSE (VANDER BAAST) SHOTT AND BURNT."

"WILLIAM PIETERSE KILD."

His house lot was on the south corner of Church and Union Streets.

"JOH: POTMAN KILD AND HIS WIFE KILD AND HER SCALP TAKEN OFF."

His house stood on the north corner of Ferry and Union Streets.

"DOM^c PETRUS TESSEMAKER YE MINISTER KILD AND BURNT IN HIS HOUSE."

His house was on the present location of the First Reformed Church, Union and Church Streets.

"FRANS HARMENSE (VAN DE BOGART) KILD."

His house lot was on Front Street near the North gate.

"ENGEL, THE WIFE OF ADAM VROOMAN, SHOT AND BURNT HER CHILD THE BRAINS DASHED OUT AGAINST Y^c WALL."

Adam's house stood on the west corner of Front and Church Streets.

"REYNIER SCHAATS AND HIS SONNE KILD."

He was the son of Dominie Gideon Schaats of Albany; surgeon and physician of the village as well as Justice of the Peace. He lived on the lot now occupied by the Schenectady County Historical Society.

"DANIEL ANDRIES & GEORGE 2 SOULDIERS OF CAPT. BULL."

"A FRENCH GIRL PRISONER AMONG THE MOHOGS KILD."

"A MAQUASE INDIAN KILD."

"JOHANNES YE SONNE OF SYMON SKERMERHORN."

It was Symon Schermerhorn who made the celebrated ride to Albany to warn the citizens of that place. He probably lived on the west corner of Church and Union Streets.

"3 NEGROES OF SYMON SKERMERHORN."

In all 60 persons.

*History of the Schenectady Patent by Jonathan Pearson.

*"Lyst of ye Persones which ye French & there Indians have taken Prisoners at Skinnechtady and caried to Canida ye 9th day of February 16⁸⁹/₉₀:

"JOHANNES TELLER & HIS NEGROE."

The Teller lot was on the east corner of Union Street and Washington Avenue. Teller was redeemed from the Indians.

"JOHN WEMP SONNE OF MYND^e WEMP AND 2 NEGROES."

The Wemps lived on west side of Washington Avenue, little north of State Street.

"SYMON, ABRAHAM, PHILLIP, DYRCK AND CLAAS GROOT ALL 5 SONNES OF SYMON GROOT."

All of these were redeemed with perhaps the exception of Claas.

"JAN BAPTIST SONNE OF JAN VAN EPS."

Jan was seventeen years old when he was captured. He remained among the Canadian Indians about three years. In one of their expeditions against the Mohawks he escaped and returned home. On account of his familiarity with the language of the natives he was often employed by the Governors of the Province as an interpreter.

"ALBERT & JOHANNES VEDDER SONNES OF HARME VEDDER."

The Vedders lived on the bouwland on what is now known as the Campbell farm. He was redeemed.

"ISAAK CORNELISE SWITTS & HIS ELDEST SONNE."

He lived on the west side of Washington Avenue directly opposite State Street. Both were redeemed.

"A NEGROE OF BARENT JANSE (VAN DITMARS)."

"ARNOUT YE SONNE OF ARNOUT CORN: VIELE YE INTERP^r."

"STEPHEN YE SONNE OF GYSBERT GERRITSE (VAN BRAKEL)."

"LAWRENCE SONNE OF CLAAS LAWRENCE PURMURENT (VANDER VOLGEN)."

The Vander Volgen home lot was outside the stockade. Its location would be on State Street near where now stands the Schenectady Savings Loan Association building. Lawrence remained with the Canadian Indians about eleven years, becoming perfectly familiar with their language. After his return he was employed as an interpreter.

"ARNOUT SONNE OF PAULYN JANSE."

Residence unknown.

"BARENT YE SONNE OF ADAM VROOMAN AND YE NEGER."

"CLAES SONNE OF FRANS HARMENSE (VAN DE BOGART)."

His father's lot was on the north side of Front Street directly opposite Church Street.

"STEPHEN ADOPTED SONNE OF GEERTJE BONTS."

Residence unknown.

"JOHN WEBB A SOULDIER BELONGING TO CAPT. BULL."

"DAVID BURT BELONGING TO YE SAME COMP^e."

"JOSEPH MARKS OF YE SAME COMP^e."

In all.....27

*History of the Schenectady Patent by Jonathan Pearson.

*"List of the Goods sent from New York and received from Mons' Jan Hendricksen Brujn and Johannes Proofoost to be distributed among the Refugees of Schoonechte, to wit:

2348½ Dutch ells Osenb: Linen

3 ps Serge,

13 prs. Stockings,

72 ells pennestont,

And delivered to the Deacons of Schoonechte and the Deacons of Albany, to wit:

Barent Wemp, Johannes De Wandelaer,
Jan Byvanck, Jacob Loockermans.

first distributed to

Sarge
ell

Barent Wemp.....	6¾
Harmen Vedder.....	6¾
Symen Schermerhoorn.....	6¾
Symen Groot.....	6¾
Arent Vedder.....	6¾
Anne widow of Frans (Van de Bogart).....	6¾
Willem Appel.....	6¾
Goosen Van Oort.....	6½
Samuel Bradt.....	6½
Andries Bradt.....	6½
Johannes Dyckman.....	6½
Geertruy Groot.....	6½

3 prs. sarge distributed of 79 and ¾

List of the Pennestont to Pennestont
ells

Aces Cornelise (Van Slyck).....	7
Dirck Bradt.....	7
Isack De Teurex (Truax).....	8
Nieces Volckers.....	3½
Johannes Dyckman.....	3
Jan (Van) Eps.....	7
Loowies Coopele (Cobes).....	3½
Pieter Van Olinda.....	7
Gerret Jansen.....	5
William Van Erde.....	3½
Arent Vedder.....	3½
Elias Swart.....	7
Jan Buys.....	4
Geertruy.....	3
ells.....	72

List of Stockings.

Manus Vedder, one pair of Stockings.....	1
Symen Groot, one pair.....	1
Jan Buys.....	1
Willem Appel.....	1
Symen Schermerhooren.....	1
Gyspert Gerrets (Van Brakel).....	1
Harmen Vedder.....	1
Hendrick Gardeniers.....	1
Samuel Bradt.....	1
Dirck Hesselingsh.....	1
Adam Froman.....	1
Teunis Carstensen.....	1
Gerrit Gysbersen (Van Brakel).....	1

The number of Stockings, prs..... 13

List of the Osenburg Linen

ells

Harmen Vedder.....	80
Jan (Van) Eps.....	70
Catlyn Barendsen (Van Ditmars).....	70
Dirck Bradt.....	65
Barent Wemp.....	70
Dirck Hesselingsh.....	58
Willem Appel.....	80
Goosen Van Oort.....	50
Geertruy (Groot (?)).....	31
Susanne Tellers.....	50
Aces Cornelise (Van Slyck).....	50
Dieur Wemp.....	55
Anne Harmensen (Van de Bogart).....	65
Tryntje Bosboom.....	20
Symon Volcker (Veeder).....	30
Samel Bradt.....	50
Gyspert Gerrets (Van Brakel).....	80
Nieces Volckertsen (Veeder(?)).....	20
Jacob Van Laer.....	20
Willem Van Eerde.....	75
Cornelis Viel.....	40
Manus Haegedoorn.....	40
Jannetie Schermerhooren.....	40
Cornelis Schermerhooren.....	20
Citte Bradt.....	60
Hendrick Gardeniers.....	40
Cornelis Claesen.....	20
Tryntie Schaets.....	80

	ells
David Christoffelsen's children.....	50
Johannes Pootman's children.....	70
Adam Frooman.....	70
Symen Schermerhooren.....	50
Purmerent (Van de Volgen).....	40
Symen Groot.....	80
Fytie Pietersen Bosboom.....	20
ells.....	1809

Distributed in Schoonechtete,
List of the Linen distributed in the Bush
(Woestine)

	ells
Elias Swart.....	36
Lauries Coopesen (Ludovicus Cobes).....	20
Isack Teurx (Truax).....	40
Jan Buys.....	23
Teunis Carstensen.....	35
Binnonie Arentsen (Van Hoeck).....	25

*Doc. Hist. N. Y., II, III.

Sarge is serge cloth.

Pennestont, correctly spelled, Penistone, is the name for a coarse woolen cloth very much in use in the 16th and 17th centuries.

elle is a unit of length, 27 inches.

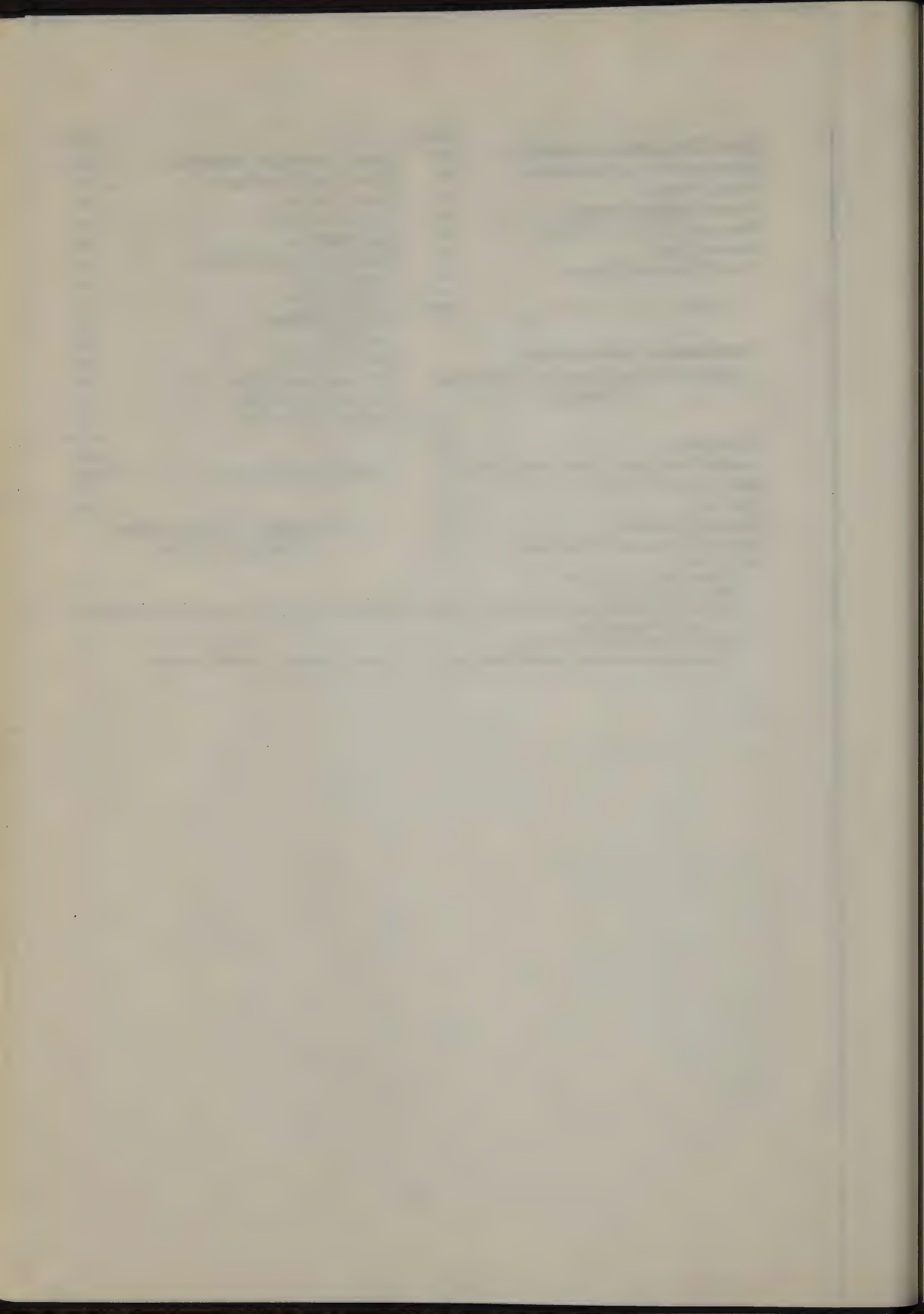
Osenburg linen, correctly spelled, Osnaburg, is a very coarse linen used for bedding purposes.

	ells
Davit Marienissen (marinus).....	30 1/2
Elias (Van) Gyseling.....	30
Arent Vedder.....	30
Pitter Van Olinda.....	35
Jan Frooman.....	30
Manis (Harmanus Vedder).....	24
Teunis Viele.....	20
Tryntje Verwy.....	15
Claes (De) Graef.....	35
Jan Hilt.....	25
Cornelis Groat.....	20
Jan Luycessen (Wyngaardt).....	18
Johannes Dyckman.....	30
Lysbet Cornelissen.....	15

	540
From the other side.....	1809

2349

By me Johannes De Wandelaer
Deacon of Albany*



*Places of Historical Interest in Reference
to the Massacre*

The four corners of the stockade which surrounded the Village are marked by tablets located:

- At the corner of Washington Avenue and State Street.
- At the corner of State Street and Ferry Street.
- In St. George's churchyard on Ferry Street.
- At the corner of Washington Avenue and Front Street.

Tablet locating the North Gate where the invaders entered and Adam Vrooman defended his house:

- At the intersection of Church and Front Streets.
- There is also a State Marker here commemorating the ride of Symon Schermerhorn.

Tablet locating the blockhouse or fort:

- At the corner of Washington Avenue and Front Street.

The watch tower was near the corner of State and Ferry Streets, southwest of the gate.

The powder magazine of the first blockhouse is partially intact in the cellar of 26 Washington Avenue.

Tablet locating the first church (Dutch Reformed):

- At the intersection of Mill Lane, South Church Street and Water Streets.

The village tavern kept by Dowe Aukes and the whipping post were near the first church.

Tablet locating the Mill of Sweer Teunise Van Velsen, which was the first industry in the Mohawk Valley is on Mill Lane.

Tablet listing the original proprietors of the Village at its founding:

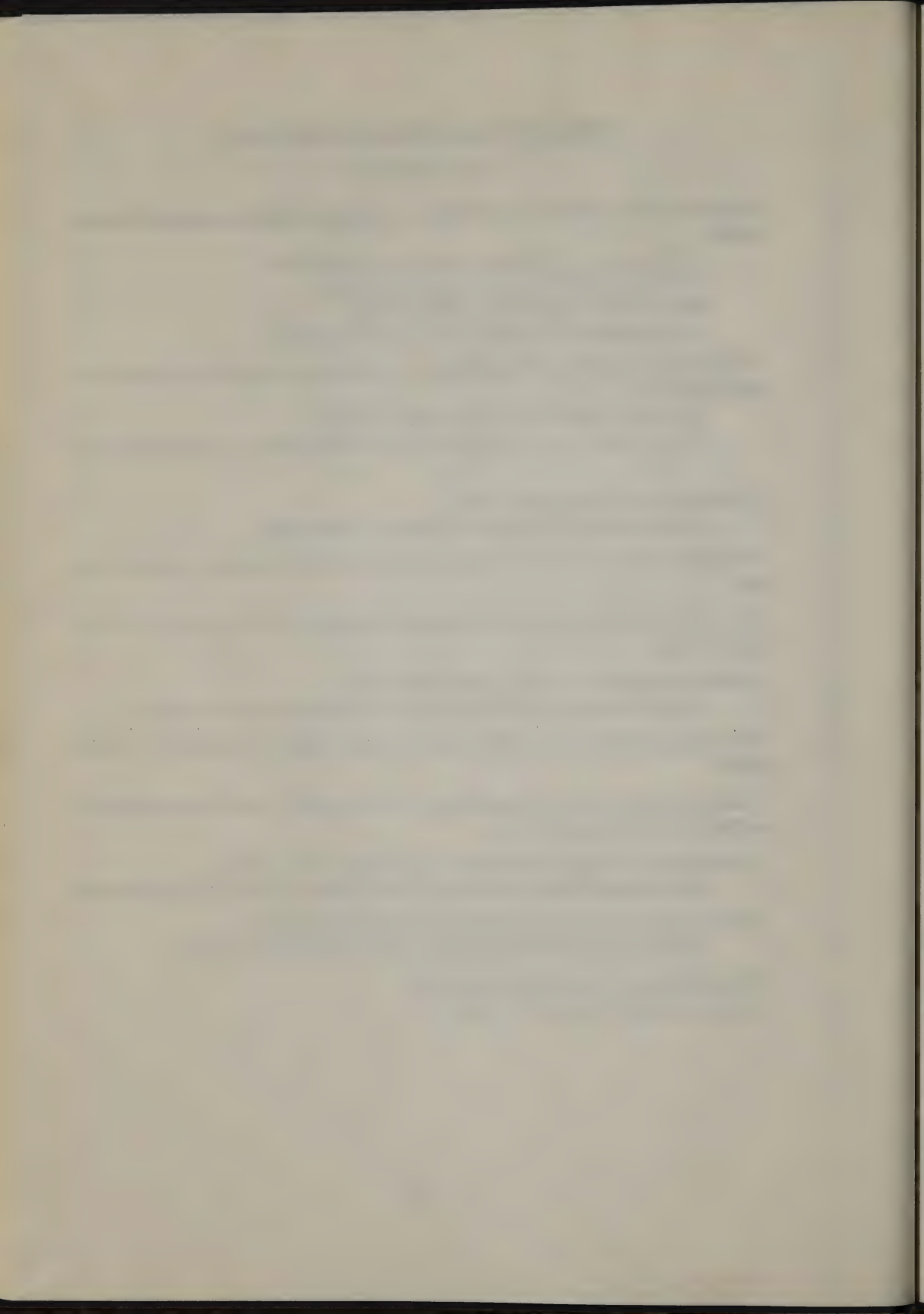
- On the lawn of the First Reformed Church, corner of Union and Church Streets.

Tablet to the honor of Arent Van Curler, founder of the Village:

- At the corner of the Mohawk Club, at Union and Church Streets.

The Schenectady County Historical Society:

- 13 Union Street. (Hours 10-12 and 2-5).



List of Books

For more extended reading on the history of
Schenectady, and the Lower Mohawk Valley in general.

- *Barber, John W. Historical Collections of State of New York.....1841
- *Barhyte and Birch (Publishers) History of the County of Schenectady.....1887
- Barnes, A. S. Popular History of the United States.....1878
- *Beekman, Douw. The Defenders of the Frontier.....1937
- *Bennett, Clarence E. Many Mohawk Moons.....1938
- *Birch, John J. The Saint of the Wilderness.....1936
- Brandow, John H. Story of Old Saratoga.....1906
- *Broadhead, J. R. Documents Relative to Colonial History. Vols. III & IX.....1855
- *Broadhead, J. R. History of the State of New York 2 vols.....1871
- Coffin, Charles G. Old Times in the Colonies.....1880
- Colden, Cadwallader. History of the Five Indian Nations 2 vols.....1902
- *Dailey, W. N. P. The Schenectady Massacre in Scrap Book CII.....
- *Dales, Fred & Marion D. A Story of Schenectady and the Mohawk Valley.....1926
- Diefendorf, Mary R. The Historic Mohawk.....1910
- Drake, F. S. Indian History for Young Folks.....1885
- Drake, Samuel G. Aboriginal Races in North America.....1860
- Dunlap, Wm. History of the Province of New York.....1840
- Fisk, John. New France and New England.....1902
- Fisk, John, The Dutch & Quaker Colonies in America. 2 vols.....1889
- Griffis, W. E. Romance of American Colonization.....1898
- Miller, Rev. John. A Description of the Province and City of New York....1695
- *Landon, Judson S. Why Schenectady was Destroyed in 1690.....1897
- *Monroe, Joel H. Schenectady, Ancient & Modern.....1914
- *Morgan, Christopher. Documentary History of the State of New York. Vol. I..1849
- *Munsell, W. W. History of Albany & Schenectady Counties.....1886
- *Paige, Harriet B. Schenectady Scrapbooks.
- Parker, Gilbert. Old Quebec.....1903
- Parkman, Francis. Count Frontenac and New France under Louis XIV.....1891
- *Pearson, Jonathan. First Settlers of Schenectady.....1873
- *Pearson, Jonathan. History of the Schenectady Patent.....1883
- *Reid, W. Max. The Mohawk Valley.....1901
- *Roberts, Geo. S. Old Schenectady.....1905
- *Sanders, John. Early History of Schenectady.....1879
- *Schenectady: First Church Memorial.....1880
- Simms, Jephtha R. Schoharie County and Border Wars.....1845
- Simms, Jephtha R. Frontiersmen of New York. 2 Vols.....1882
- *Shafer, Don C. Stories of an Old Dutch Town.....1909
- Smith, Wm. History of the Province of New York.....1762
- *Stone, Wm. L. Life of Joseph Brant. 2 Vols.....1838

THE HISTORY OF

THE CITY OF BOSTON
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY
JOHN B. BOWEN
OF THE CITY OF BOSTON
IN TWO VOLUMES
VOL. I.
BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY
J. B. BOWEN, 10 NASSAU ST.
1845.

Thwaites, R. G. The Colonies 1492-1750.....	1899
*Truax, James R. Arent Van Curler.....	1909
Trumbull, Benjamin. General History of the United States.....	1810
Trumbull, Henry. History of the Indian Wars.....	1841
*Weller, W. Earl. Tales of Old Dorp.....	1907
*Westover, Myron F. (Editor). Schenectady, Past & Present.....	1931
Williams, Sherman. New York's Part in History.....	1915
*Yates, Austin A. History of Schenectady County.....	1902

The Following Poems are of Historic Interest

*"Poetical Version of the Tragedy".....	Walter Willie
*"Symon Schermerhoorn's Ride".....	Harry R. Sweny
*"Symon Schermerhoorn's Ride".....	Aaron B. Pratt
*"The Burning of Schenectady.".....	Alfred B. Street

* These books may be found in the library of the Schenectady County Historical Society, 13 Union Street.

5676

